Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1, amend claims 2, 6, 8 and 9, and add new claims 33 and 34 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 33, wherein the contour recognizing section judges the kind of recognized contour based on a position change of a boundary of the object region.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the contour recognizing section comprises:
a region boundary point detecting section that detects a
5 boundary of the object region,

-2-

a position change amount calculating section that calculates

a position change amount of the boundary of the object region

from plural region boundary points detected by the region

boundary point detecting section, and

10   a contour specifying section that specifies the kind of

recognized contour from the position change amount calculated by

the position change amount calculating section.

Claim 4 (Original). The radiation image processing

apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the position change

amount is a distance between neighboring region boundary points.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The radiation image

processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the position

change amount is an amount of change in coordinates between

neighboring region boundary points in one or both of the

5   horizontal and vertical directions.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing

apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 33, wherein the contour

recognizing section judges the kind of recognized contour based

on local region widths of the object region.

-3-

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the contour recognizing section comprises:

a region boundary point detecting section which detects a
5   boundary of the object region,

a region width calculating section which calculates local region widths of the object region from plural region boundary points detected by the region boundary point detecting section, and

10   a contour specifying section which specifies the kind of recognized contour from the region widths calculated by the region width calculating section.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to claim [[1]] 33, wherein the body part of the object is recognized by using the feature amount obtained in the contour recognizing section.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 33, further comprising a radiographing orientation judging section which judges a

-4-

radiographing orientation for the object from the contour based

5   on the feature amount.

        Claims 10-32 (Cancelled).

    Claim 33 (New). A radiation image processing apparatus

which identifies a contour of a radiographed body part and

determines which one of a plurality of different contour types

corresponding to a plurality of different kinds of body parts the

5   radiographed body part belongs, the apparatus comprising:

        an object region extracting section that receives a set of

two-dimensionally-arranged radiation image data including

radiation image data of the radiographed body part and extracts

an object region formed by the radiation image data of the

10   radiographed body part from the set of two-dimensionally-arranged

radiation image data; and

        a contour recognizing section having classification criteria

data for each of the plurality of different contour types, which

recognizes a contour of the extracted object region, and

15   determines to which one of the plurality of different contour

types the recognized contour belongs based on the classification

criteria data.

                        -5-

Appln. No. 09/840,193
Amendment dated September 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2005

Claim 34 (New). The radiation image processing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the contour recognizing section provides a feature amount to the recognized contour in accordance with the determined one of the plurality of different contour types.

-6-